

DESTABILIZATION OF CRUDE OIL EMULSIONS VIA MICROWAVE ASSISTED ULTRASONIC TECHNOLOGY

by

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ABSTARCT

The conventional method of breaking emulsions using heat and chemicals are disadvantages from both economic and environmental aspects. Hence, the alternative method and environmental friendly are needed to alter efficiency for destabilization of crude oil emulsion. One of the alternatives that can be used to replace the existance chemical which is not enviromental friendly is by using microwave assisted ultrasonic technologies which create very high energy to break the presence of water in the crude oil. In this study, microwave assisted ultrasonic demulsification was applied in a 20-80 % and 50-50 % water-in-oil emulsions. The effectiveness of microwave assisted ultrasonic in demulsification was assessed experimentally with two different power of microwave which are 450 Watt and 600 Watt, and two different power of ultrasonic which are 3 and 9. A commercial emulsifiers used were Triton X-100, Low Sulphur Wax Residue (LSWR) and Span 83. The separation of water from crude oil is faster and efficient via using the microwave assisted by ultrasonic method compare to conventional method.

ABSTRAK

Kaedah-kaedah yang biasa digunakan dalam pemisahan air daripada emulsi air dalam minyak mentah seperti pemanasan dan penggunaan bahan kimia mendatangkan masalah dari segi ekonomi dan alam sekitar. Oleh itu, kaedah alternatif dan mesra alam yang diperlukan untuk mempercepatkan tahap kecekapan untuk proses pemisahan air daripada emulsi air dalam minyak mentah. Salah satu alternatif yang boleh digunakan untuk menggantikan bahan kimia yang telah wujud tetapi tidak mesra alam sekitar adalah dengan menggunakan teknologi gelombang mikro dibantu ultrasonik yang mewujudkan tenaga yang sangat tinggi untuk memecahkan kehadiran air dalam minyak mentah. Dalam kajian ini, pemisahan air dari minyak mentah melalui kaedah gelombang mikro dibantu ultrasonik telah digunakan dalam 20-80 % dan 50-50 % air dalam minyak emulsi. Keberkesanan gelombang mikro dibantu ultrasonik dalam proses pemisahan air daripada minyak mentah telah dinilai secara uji kaji dengan dua kuasa mikro yang berbeza iaitu 450 Watt dan 600 Watt, dan dua kuasa ultasonik yang berbeza iaitu 3 dan 9. Pengemulsi komersial yang digunakan adalah Triton X-100, Sulphur Rendah Wax Residu (LSWR) dan SPAN 83. Pemisahan air dari minyak mentah adalah lebih cepat dan cekap melalui kaedah gelombang mikro dibantu ultrasonik berbanding kaedah yang biasa digunakan.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION	iii
STUDENT'S DECLARATION	iv
DEDICATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
ABSTRACT	vii
ABSTRAK	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF TABLES	xix
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xxv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxvii

1 INTRODUCTION

3.1 Background of the Proposed Study	1
3.2 Problem Statement	2
3.3 Research Objectives	3
3.4 Scope of the Proposed Study	3
3.5 Expected Outcomes	4
3.6 Significance of the Proposed Study	4

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Emulsion	5
2.2 Emulsifier	9
2.3 Demulsification	10
2.4 Mechanism Involved in Destabilization	11
2.5 Destabilizing Emulsion	12
2.6 Characteristic of Crude Oil	13

2.7 Properties of Crude Oil Emulsion	15
2.8 Factors Affecting Stability	16
2.8.1 Asphaltenes and Resins	16
2.8.2 Wax	19
2.8.3 Solid	19
2.8.4 Drop Size	20
2.8.5 Temperature	21
2.8.6 pH	22
2.8.7 Brine Composition	23
2.9 Method of Destabilization of Crude Oil Emulsions	24
2.9.1 Thermal Method	25
2.9.2 Mechanical Method	26
2.9.3 Electrical Method	27
2.9.4 Chemical	27
2.9.5 Microwave	28
2.9.6 Ultrasonic	29
2.10 Stability of Crude Oil Emulsion	31
2.11 Colloid Rheology	31
2.12 Theory of Microwave Heating	33
2.12.1 Dielectric Properties	33
2.12.2 Volume Heat Generation	34

3 MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Preparation of Crude Oil Emulsions	38
3.2 Procedures for Emulsion Preparations and Emulsion Breaking	39
3.3 Experiment Setup	42
3.3.1 Apparatus	42
3.3.2 Materials	42
3.3.3 Equipment	43
3.3.4 Calculations	47

3.3.4.1 Calculation for Emulsion Preparation	47
3.3.4.2 Calculation for Demulsification Preparation	48
3.3.4.3 Description of Experimental Procedure	49
3.3.4.4 Procedure Details	50

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Result and Observation	52
4.1.1 Settling Gravity (Conventional Method)	52
4.1.2 Demulsifications	59
4.1.3 Brookfield Test	83
4.1.4 Result of droplet size(50%-50% w/o emulsion)	95
4.1.5 Result of droplet size(20%-80% w/o emulsion)	104
4.1.6 Microwave Heating Properties for Demulsification via Microwave of assisted Ultrasonic for 50%-50% w/o emulsion	113
4.1.7 Microwave Heating Properties for Demulsification via Microwave of assisted Ultrasonic for 20%-80% w/o emulsion	125
4.1.8 Surface Tension	137
4.1.9 Interfacial Tension	137
4.2 Data Analysis	
4.2.1 Brookfield Analysis	
4.2.1.1 Viscosity versus Temperature	138
4.2.1.2 Discussion on Viscosity versus Temperature	142
4.2.1.3 Viscosity versus Concentration of Emulsifier	144
4.2.1.4 Discussion on Viscosity versus Concentration of Emulsifier	146
4.2.1.5 Viscosity versus Agitation Speed	147

4.2.1.6 Discussion on Viscosity versus	
Agitation Speed	149
4.2.1.7 Viscosity versus Shear Rate	150
4.2.1.8 Discussion on Viscosity versus Shear Rate	151
4.2.1.9 Shear Stress versus Shear Rate	152
4.2.1.10 Discussion on Shear Stress versus	
Shear Rate	153
4.2.2 Emulsion Gravitational Stability Test	
(Conventional Method for Demulsification)	155
4.2.2.1 Emulsion 50%-50% w/o for Emulsifier	
0.5v%	155
4.2.2.2 Emulsion 50%-50% w/o for Emulsifier	
1.5v%	157
4.2.2.3 Emulsion 20%-80% w/o for Emulsifier	
0.5v%	159
4.2.2.4 Emulsion 20%-80% w/o for Emulsifier	
1.5v%	161
4.2.3 Comparison of Percentage of Water Separation	
between Conventional Method (Settling Gravity)	
and Microwave Assisted Ultrasonic	163
4.2.3.1 Emulsion 50%-50% w/o for Emulsifier	
0.5v%	163
4.2.3.2 Emulsion 50%-50% w/o for Emulsifier	
1.5v%	167
4.2.3.3 Emulsion 20%-80% w/o for Emulsifier	
0.5v%	169
4.2.3.4 Emulsion 20%-80% w/o for Emulsifier	
1.5v%	171
4.2.4 Discussion on Microwave Heating Properties	173
4.2.5 Discussion on Droplet Size	174
4.2.6 Summary	175

5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
5.1	Conclusion	176
5.1.1	Introduction	176
5.1.2	Stabilization/Emulsification	176
5.1.3	Destabilization/Demulsification	177
5.2	Recommendations	178
5.2.1	Introduction	178
5.2.2	Stabilization/Emulsification	179
5.2.3	Destabilization/Demulsification	180
5.2.4	Summary	181
	REFERENCES	182
	APPENDIX	185

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Oil-in-water emulsion (O/W) and water-in-oil emulsion (W/O)	7
2.2	Photomicrograph of a water-in-oil emulsion. (Sunil, 2006)	8
2.3	Photomicrograph of an oil-in-water emulsion. (Sunil, 2006)	8
2.4	Photomicrograph of a water-in-oil-in-water emulsion (complex emulsions) (Sunil, 2006)	9
2.5	Fractional distillation of crude oil (Retrieved on April 3, 2012)	14
2.6	Effect of asphaltenes, added to deasphalted oil, on emulsion stability. (Sunil, 2006)	18
2.7	Mechanism of emulsion stabilization by asphaltene. (Sunil, 2006)	18
2.8	Wetting behavior of solids at the oil/water interface. (Sunil, 2006)	20
2.9	Droplet-size distribution of petroleum emulsion. (Sunil, 2006)	21
2.10	Effect of pH and demulsifier concentration on emulsion stability. (Sunil, 2006)	23

2.11	Effect of brine and pH on emulsion stability.	
	(Sunil, 2006)	24
2.12	Free water knockout (Sunil, 2006)	27
2.13	Viscosity of very tight emulsions at shear rate of 0.1 (1/s).	
	(Sunil, 2006)	32
2.14	Typical curves of viscosity versus shear rate.	
	(Retrieved on April 3, 2012)	32
2.15	Typical curves of viscosity versus shear rate.	
	(Retrieved on April 3, 2012)	33
3.1	Flow diagram for the emulsion preparation procedures	40
3.2	Flow chart for emulsion breaking procedures	41
3.3	Three Plate Propellers	44
3.4	Brookfield	44
3.5	Microscope	45
3.6	Tension Meter	45
3.7	Microwave Oven	46
3.8	Ultrasonic Cleaner	46
4.1	Droplet Size (Triton X-100)	95
4.2	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Triton X-100)	96
4.3	Droplet Size (0.5% Triton X-100)	96
4.4	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Triton X-100)	97

4.5	Droplet Size (0.5% LSWR)	98
4.6	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% LSWR)	99
4.7	Droplet Size (1.5% LSWR)	99
4.8	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% LSWR)	100
4.9	Droplet Size (0.5% Span 83)	101
4.10	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Span 83)	102
4.11	Droplet Size (1.5% Span 83)	102
4.12	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Span 83)	103
4.13	Droplet Size (0.5% Triton X-100)	104
4.14	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Triton X-100)	105
4.15	Droplet Size (1.5% Triton X-100)	105
4.16	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Triton X-100)	106
4.17	Droplet Size (0.5% LSWR)	107
4.18	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% LSWR)	108
4.19	Droplet Size (1.5% LSWR)	108
4.20	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% LSWR)	109
4.21	Droplet Size (0.5% Span 83)	110
4.22	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Span 83)	111
4.23	Droplet Size (1.5% Span 83)	111
4.24	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Span 83)	112
4.25	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 100 (Brookfield)	138
4.26	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 150 (Brookfield)	139
4.27	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 200 (Brookfield)	139

4.28	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 250 (Brookfield)	140
4.29	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 100 (Brookfield)	140
4.30	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 150 (Brookfield)	141
4.31	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 200 (Brookfield)	141
4.32	Viscosity versus Temperature at RPM 250 (Brookfield)	142
4.33	Viscosity versus Concentration of Emulsifier at RPM 100 (Brookfield)	144
4.34	Viscosity versus Concentration of Emulsifier at RPM 150 (Brookfield)	144
4.35	Viscosity versus Concentration of Emulsifier at RPM 200 (Brookfield)	145
4.36	Viscosity versus Concentration of Emulsifier at RPM 250 (Brookfield)	145
4.37	Viscosity versus Agitation Speed of 0.5v% at 70°C (Brookfield)	147
4.38	Viscosity versus Agitation Speed of 1.5v% at 70°C (Brookfield)	147
4.39	Viscosity versus Agitation Speed of 0.5v% at 70°C (Brookfield)	148
4.40	Viscosity versus Agitation Speed of 1.5v% at 70°C (Brookfield)	148
4.41	Viscosity versus Shear Rate at 70°C	150
4.42	Viscosity versus Shear Rate at 70°C	150
4.43	Pseudoplastic behavior as Viscosity versus shear rate. (Retrieved on April 3, 2012)	151
4.44	Shear Stress versus Shear Rate at 70°C	152
4.45	Shear Stress versus Shear Rate at 70°C	153
4.46	Pseudoplastic behavior as shear rate versus shear stress (Retrieved on April 3, 2012)	154

4.47	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time	155
4.48	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time	157
4.49	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time	159
4.50	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time	161
4.51	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time Using Microwave Assisted Ultrasonic Method	163
4.52	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time Using Microwave Assisted Ultrasonic Method	166
4.53	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time Using Microwave Assisted Ultrasonic Method	168
4.54	Percentage of Water Separation versus Time Using Microwave Assisted Ultrasonic Method	170
4.55	Rate of Temperature Increase for 50-50% and 20-80% W/O	172
4.56	Dielectric loss for 50-50% and 20-80% W/O	172

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES NO.	TITLE	PAGE
3.1	Information of Calculations for Emulsion Preparation	47
3.2	Information of Calculations for Demulsification Preparation	48
4.1	Settling Gravity	54
4.2	Settling Gravity	56
4.3	Settling Gravity	58
4.4	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	60
4.5	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	62
4.6	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	64
4.7	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	66
4.8	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	68
4.9	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	70
4.10	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	72
4.11	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	74
4.12	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	76
4.13	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	78
4.14	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	80
4.15	Demulsification via Microwave assisted Ultrasonic	82
4.16	Brookfield Test	83
4.17	Brookfield Test	84
4.18	Brookfield Test	85
4.19	Brookfield Test	86

4.20	Brookfield Test	87
4.21	Brookfield Test	88
4.22	Brookfield Test	89
4.23	Brookfield Test	90
4.24	Brookfield Test	91
4.25	Brookfield Test	92
4.26	Brookfield Test	93
4.27	Brookfield Test	94
4.28	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Triton X-100)	95
4.29	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Triton X-100)	97
4.30	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% LSWR)	98
4.31	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% LSWR)	100
4.32	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Span 83)	101
4.33	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Span 83)	103
4.34	Droplet Size for 50-50% W/O Emulsion	104
4.35	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Triton X-100)	104
4.36	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Triton X-100)	106
4.37	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% LSWR)	107
4.38	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% LSWR)	109
4.39	Droplet Size Distribution (0.5% Span 83)	110
4.40	Droplet Size Distribution (1.5% Span 83)	112
4.41	Droplet Size for 20-80% W/O Emulsion	112
4.42	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	113

4.43	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	113
4.44	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	114
4.45	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	114
4.46	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	115
4.47	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	115
4.48	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	116
4.49	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(450Watt assisted power 9)	116
4.50	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	117
4.51	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	117
4.52	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	118
4.53	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	118
4.54	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	119

4.55	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	119
4.56	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	120
4.57	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	120
4.58	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	121
4.59	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	121
4.60	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	122
4.61	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	122
4.62	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	123
4.63	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	123
4.64	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	124
4.65	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	124
4.66	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	125

4.67	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	125
4.68	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	126
4.69	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	126
4.70	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	127
4.71	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	127
4.72	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	128
4.73	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(450Watt assisted power 9)	128
4.74	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	129
4.75	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	129
4.76	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 3)	130
4.77	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(450 Watt assisted power 9)	130
4.78	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	131

4.79	Triton X-100 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	131
4.80	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	132
4.81	Triton X-100 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	132
4.82	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	133
4.83	LSWR with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	133
4.84	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	134
4.85	LSWR with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	134
4.86	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	135
4.87	Span 83 with concentration 0.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	135
4.88	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 3)	136
4.89	Span 83 with concentration 1.5%	
	(600 Watt assisted power 9)	136
4.90	Surface Tension of Water and Air and Oil and Air	137
4.91	Interfacial Tension of Water and Oil	137

LIST OF SYMBOLS

$\varepsilon'_{r,w}$	-	Dielectric constant of water
$\varepsilon''_{r,w}$	-	Dielectric loss of water
$\varepsilon'_{r,o}$	-	Dielectric constant of crude oil
$\tan \delta_o$	-	Loss tangent of crude oil
$q_{MW,z}$	-	The volume rate of heat generation
A	-	Convective heat transfer area, cm ²
V	-	Volume of irradiated emulsion, cm ³
T _m	-	Temperature of emulsion, °C
T _a	-	Ambient Temperature, °C
ε	-	emissivity of surface
σ	-	Stefan-Boltzmann constant= 5.672 x 10 ⁻⁸ W/m ² .K ⁴
ρ	-	Density of emulsion, g/cm ³
C _p	-	Heat capacity at constant pressure, cal/g.°C
$\frac{dT}{dt}$	-	Rate of temperature increase in °C/s
ρ_m	-	Density of emulsion, g/cm ³
ρ_w	-	Density of water, g/cm ³
ρ_o	-	Density of crude oil, g/cm ³
C _{p,m}	-	Heat capacity of emulsion, cal/g.°C
C _{p,w}	-	Heat capacity of water, cal/g.°C
C _{p,o}	-	Heat capacity of crude oil, cal/g.°C
Φ	-	Volume fraction of emulsified water

D_p	-	Penetration depth
c	-	Electromagnetic wave velocity = speed of light
f	-	Frequency
% water separation	-	Percentage of water separation

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

W/O	-	water-in-crude oil
O/W	-	crude oil-in-water
W/O/W	-	water-in-crude oil-in-water
LSWR	-	Low Sulphur Waxy Residue
HLB	-	Hydrophilic-Lipophilic Balance

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Proposed Study

Petroleum is a complex mixture of organic liquids called crude oil. The complex nature of the emulsions of water in crude oil is one of the main drawbacks to the development of techniques suitable for demulsification and phase separation in the oil

industry. Crude oil is come into two characteristics either it is light or heavy. It is light if it is a volatile oil and is heavy if it is viscous. Crude oil is commanly mingle with water. Normally, formations of stable water-in-oil (W/O) emulsions are frequently encountered in the oil industry. The content of natural emulsifier in heavy crude oil is many compare to the light crude oil, so the formation of emulsion in heavy crude oil is more stable. Crude oil containing water is harmful to the transportation, refinery, and also decrease the quality of the products. Emulsified water contains high concentrations of salts, mainly sodium chloride which influenced for corrosion during crude oil processing in refineries and can change the quality of final product. Destabilization is an important step to obtain water-free oil. The key area of this research is a separation, demulsification or breaking the crude oil by using microwave assisted ultrasonic. People will use chemical to break the crude oil because it is the cheapest method and very efficient. However, it creates another problem which is environmental problem. One of the alternatives that can be used to replace the existance chemical which is not enviromental friendly is by using microwave assisted ultrasonic technologies which create very high energy to break the presence of water in the crude oil.

1.2 Problem Statement

The presence of the water which carries carbon dioxide that is corossive can cause a lot of problems such as problems in reducing the quality of crude oil, pipeline and heater damaging. Furthermore, the demand of oil is higher but the sources are